

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, beginning at line 28, kindly amend paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] Of these, one-part polymer grout is the only one that offers the convenience of being available in a pre-mixed state. That is, whereas one-part polymer grout hardens upon drying, the other types of grouts cure upon the addition of water, or in the instance of two-part polymer grout, upon the combination of the two parts. As such, these grouts must be mixed at the time of use and, once mixed, must be used quickly prior to cure. Any unused amounts cannot be reconstituted.

At page 4, beginning at line 25, kindly amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

[0013] The present invention thus provides a one-part polymer grout composition comprising a ~~silanated~~ silanated polymer. Any silanated polymer, or dispersion or combination comprising the same, is believed to be capable of providing the present grout compositions with the surprising strength and water and stain resistance described herein, although for certain embodiments it may be advantageous or desirable that the silanated polymer have a minimum film formation temperature of at least about 20°F, or a T_g greater than about 30°F so that any grout residue that may be present on the tile surface after installation can be cleaned off easily.

At page 4, beginning at line 32, kindly amend paragraph [0014] as follows:

[0014] One example of a particular class of polymers that may advantageously be employed in the present grout compositions are acrylics and acrylic dispersions, since acrylic latexes/dispersions can tend to be stronger and more water resistant than other types of polymers. Additionally, many silanated acrylic latexes are readily commercially available, such as those commercially available under the trade designations Rhoximat® DS931 (Rhodea North America, Cranbury, NJ) NX2835 (BASF Inc., Charlotte, NC), 13057 (Scott Bader, Northamptonshire, England). Of course, the invention is not so

limited, as any known polymer having monomeric units comprising functionality reactive with a silane moiety, SiR_3 , may be modified to be silanated and then polymerized, according to any methodology known to those of ordinary skill in the art, to provide a silanated polymer in accordance with the present invention. The silanated polymer can comprise a modified acrylic latex.

At page 6, beginning at line 5, kindly amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0018] Yet, the present one-part polymer grouts may be even further enhanced in order to provide additional advantages in their use and application. For example, the present grout compositions may include amounts of fiber fillers, that can not only improve the cohesiveness of the grout compositions upon drying so that visual cracking can be minimized or eliminated, but also, may render the grout compositions tintable at a point of sale, as described in commonly assigned co-pending patent application no. 10/729,630, filed on December 5, 2003, incorporated by reference herein in its entirety and for all purposes.

At page 6, beginning at line 22, kindly amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

[0020] As is recognized by those of ordinary skill in the art, the amount of any such fiber filler(s) utilized will depend at least in part on the particular fiber filler chosen. Of course, the total amount of fiber filler utilized will desirably be enough to least minimally assist in tint dispersion throughout the grout compositions, but yet not so much as to detrimentally impact any other desirable properties thereof. Generally speaking, amounts of mineral fibers, when used alone, ranging from about 0.1 to about 20 wt%, or from about 1 wt% to about 10 wt%, or even from about 2 wt% to about 6 wt% can provide the desired rheology modification or other assistance in tint dispersion. Cellulose fibers in amounts ranging from about 0.05 wt% to about 2 wt%, or 0.1 wt% to about 1 wt%, or from about 0.2 wt% to about 0.9 wt% are believed to be capable of imparting at least minimal improvement in tint dispersion in the present grout compositions. Combinations of fillers comprising a variety of materials may be used, and if the same is

desired, each type of fiber may be included in the combination in an amount according to the ranges provided herein. Generally speaking, the fiber fillers can be provided in an amount of at least about 25 wt%, or in an amount of at least about 30 wt%, such amounts based upon the total weight of the grout composition.